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SUBJECT: Candidates for Chiayi Supplemental Legislative
Election

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED.

¶1. (U) Former KMT Legislator Huang Min-hui's election as Chiayi City Mayor in the December election has forced a supplemental legislative election to elect a legislator to fill in more than half of the term left by Huang. Both KMT and Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) have decided on nominees to run for the seat. The supplemental election will be held on March 11.

KMT Candidate - Chiang Yi-hsiung

¶2. (SBU) The KMT selected Chiang Yi-hsiung as its candidate through a party primary on Jan. 23. Chiang is 62 years old and has a doctorate in Law from Japan's Meiji University. A professor and Dean of Students at National Chung Cheng University, Chiayi, Chiang served as a National Assembly Member from 1991 to 1994. His two earlier bids for Chiayi City mayor in 1993 and 1997 failed.

DPP Candidate - Chen Li-chen

¶3. The Pan-green camp decided its joint candidate through a vote between DPP Chen Li-chen and Taiwan Solidarity Union Party (TSU) Ling Tzi-chu. Former Chiayi City Mayor Chen Li-chen defeated Ling to become the candidate. The TSU has expressed it will throw its full support behind the DPP's Chen. Chen, who was Chiayi Mayor from 2002 to 2005, lost her re-election bid to current mayor Huang Min-hui in December 2005's "3-in-1" election.

¶4. The KMT is working hard to retain the LY seat, buoyed by its success in recapturing the Chiayi City mayoral seat after 23 years of independent or DPP rule. At the request of KMT Chairman Ma Ying-jeou, the local KMT headquarters has formed a campaign task force to help Chiang in his upcoming campaign. Meanwhile, DPP Chairman Yu Shyi-kun has called on voters to support Chen in order to break the Pan-Blue camp's "fragile majority" in the LY (Pan-Blue currently has 111 of the 220 occupied LY seats). (Note: Chiayi City has two Legislative seats, the other seat is held by DPP Legislator Tsai Tung-jung (Trong Chai).

THIELE

